

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-06

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DRAFTED BY EA/VLC:EFMCWILLIAMS,JR./BFC
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R 182130Z AUG 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP

SUBJECT: CODEL MONTGOMERY DEPARTS ANDREWS AFB

1. CODEL MONTGOMERY DEPARTED ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE ON SCHEDULE 0800 AUGUST 18. NO PRESS COVERED THE DEPARTURE. THE LAO CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, KHAMTAN RATTANAVONG AND AIDE WERE ON HAND TO SEND OFF THE DELEGATION. EA/VLC DIRECTOR AND THE LAO DESK OFFICER WERE ALSO PRESENT.

2. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH THE CODEL BEFORE DEPARTURE, THE LAO CHARGE EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR THE US DONATION OF 10,000 TONS OF RICE TO LAOS THIS YEAR AND SAID THAT THE LAO PEOPLE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE US ASSISTANCE IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND IN EXPANDING THE LAO IRRIGATION AND RESERVOIR SYSTEM- HE ALSO NOTED THAT THE LAO WERE IN NEED OF
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RICE GRANARIES.

3. CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY SAID THAT THE NEEDS OF THE LAO PEOPLE WAS SOMETHING THAT THE DELEGATION INTENDED TO LOOK INTO. HE STRESSED THAT US AID FOR RECONSTRUCTION WAS OUT OF THE QUESTION BUT THAT HUMANITARIAN AID SUCH AS FOOD REMAINED POSSIBLE. HE INDICATED THAT ANOTHER PURPOSE OF THE

MISSION WAS TO REITERATE US DETERMINATION TO OBTAIN A FULLER ACCOUNTING OF US MIA PERSONNEL IN LAOS NOTING THAT

AT THIS POINT THE LAO HAVE PROVIDED NO INFORMATION. MONTGOMERY MENTIONED THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE DELEGATION WOULD BE INTERESTED IN VISITING THE PLAIN OF JARS AND ASKED IF KHAMTAN THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. KHAMTAN REPLIED THAT THE CODEL WOULD HAVE TO ADDRESS THIS QUESTION TO OFFICIALS IN VIENTIANE. MONTGOMERY THEN ASKED IF KHAMTAN THOUGHT THAT THE US COULD BE USEFUL IN ASSISTING THE LAO IN REMOVING ORDNANCE FROM THE PLAIN OF JARS. KHAMTAN RESPONDED THAT THIS WOULD BE VERY USEFUL IN ALLOWING THE LAO TO EXPAND THEIR RICE FIELDS. MONTGOMERY NOTED THAT THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAD NEVER APPROACHED THE USG WITH THIS REQUEST.

5. KHAMTAN THANKED CONGRESSMAN MONTGOMERY PERSONALLY FOR HIS VOTE ON THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AUTHORIZATION BILL.

6. IN A PHONE CALL TO THE LAO DESK AFTER THE DEPARTURE, THE LAO CHARGE SAID THAT HE WAS SENDING A CABLE TO VIENTIANE REQUESTING THAT THE CODEL BE SHOWN VARIOUS IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN THE VIENTIANE PLAIN AND ALSO NOTING THE CODEL'S INTEREST IN A VISIT TO THE PLAIN OF JARS. VANCE

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